





mapping the evaluations of the unique code rules to the corresponding code rules in the position variant definitions in the BOM; and

determining the appropriate position variant ~~definition to select~~ for each position in accordance with the mapped code rule evaluations[[]]; and

calculating the amount of manufacturing parts for the article of manufacture; and

upon receiving an order containing specified design options:

evaluating the code rule for each position variant to select a specific position variant for each position and thereby identify a specific part for use in the location corresponding to the respective position;

providing the specific part associated with each selected position variant in order to assist in the manufacture of the article of manufacture using the specific parts in the corresponding locations.

51 - 53. (Cancelled)

54 (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim ~~51-50~~, wherein each position variant definition has an associated validity period and the step of extracting unique code rules comprises extracting unique code rules only from those position variant definitions which have not expired at a specified start time based on the validity period.







definition further identifying a specific part, and including a code rule indicating when the position variant definition should be selected and thereby when the identified part should be used at the corresponding location;

the memory further including information representing at least one order specifying particular design options which define a particular design variant of the article; wherein each code rule for a particular design variant is a logical statement including one or more unique code rule elements;

the processor being configured to:

(a) extract unique code rules from the BOM and evaluate the code rules for each position variant definition in accordance with the respective design options for each order to identify an appropriate part for use in each location of the corresponding particular design variant of the article; and

(b) produce an output indicating for each order the appropriate parts for use in the corresponding particular design variant of the article;

the particular design variant defined by a specific order corresponding to the article of manufacture using the parts indicated for that specific order;

wherein the processor is configured to evaluate the code rules by:

mapping the evaluations of the unique code rules to the corresponding code rules in the position variant definitions in the BOM; and

determining the appropriate position variant for each position in accordance with the mapped code rule evaluations;

wherein each position variant definition has an associated validity period; and

the processor is configured to extract unique code rules only from those position variant definitions which are not expired at a specified start time in accordance with the associated validity period;

wherein:

the orders are contained in an order matrix stored in memory wherein the sequence of orders in the order matrix indicates a time sequence of manufacture of said orders;

the processor being further configured to:











68. (Canceled)